

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

January/February 2019
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Leadership View: This New Year

The New Year is an exciting time of celebration and possibilities. The Village is no exception and we are excited to start 2019 with a new office, a new staff member, and a new program.

We opened our office at 8700 Georgia Avenue in December and are now better able to serve our members (200+) and work with our devoted and treasured volunteers (100+)! The space will provide a venue for our ever-growing programs (over 300 last year) and allow us to efficiently handle the day-to-day operations of the Village and accommodate our three part-time staff members. Many thanks to the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and individual donors who gave special gifts that enabled us to rent and furnish this space.

Our new employee, Ana Carrion, joined us on January 2 and will be engaged in all aspects of Village management. Ana is an experienced nonprofit manager, with a master's degree from the University of Texas and proven success in financial management, administration, and fundraising. Welcome, Ana!

Finally, thanks to a generous grant, we will expand and enhance our volunteer program and introduce an additional service that uses the internet to fight isolation among current and future members. It is clear from research that loneliness and isolation reduce physical and mental well-being and the quality of life. This grant will enable us to (1) increase our volunteer base through additional outreach, (2) offer a series of volunteer trainings to respond to the challenging situations that can arise while volunteering, and (3) provide one-on-one peer coaching for members on how the internet can be relevant and helpful in their daily lives and be safely used as a means to increase social connections.

We hope you share our excitement at the possibilities that this New Year brings! Please join us for a program at our new Village office in the coming year or drop us an email at info@silverspringvillage.org.

—Peggy Gervasi, President

—Debbie Billet-Roumell, Executive Director

Thank You

**To our donors:
Because of your generous support we met a match for an additional \$10,000 and will be able to provide more services for seniors in your community!**

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Progress Report

Totals as of end of December

- Members: 210 (87 full, 123 associate)
- Volunteers: 110

Volunteer hours

- October 895
- November 796

Volunteer help in Oct/Nov

- 210 rides
- 67 friendly calls and visits
- 50 requests filled for in-home assistance
- Telephone crew hours: 158



Our part-time staff: left to right, Ana Carrion, Debbie Billet-Roumell, Vanessa Ripps—photo from Debbie Billet-Roumell

Events Sampler

We offered over 100 programs and interest group meetings in November and December. So many possibilities! One SPARKLE program was an introduction to mixed media. Local artist Marcie Wolf-Hubbard had people creating artwork with unconventional materials like postcards and sheet music, along with pencils and oil pastels. Our hiking group continued to explore local trails,



Creating art—photo by Lisa Martin



Hikers on a winter day—photo by Sue Decker

including a 3-mile hike in Rock Creek Park. We also held our annual swap meet in which unloved bowls, baskets, vases, kitchen tools, toys, costume jewelry, and more found new homes.



Judging a swap—photo by Claire Maklan

Competing claims for the same item were “judged” by the participants dipping into a bag of beanie babies . . . oh, it’s complicated.

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Stitchers Donate to Holy Cross

The Village’s Charity Stitchers meet monthly to continue their work in knitting, crocheting, and sewing. After our first donation of 13 blankets in June, we branched out to also create hats and scarves. By early December we were able to give 43 warm and cozy items (22 blankets/quilts and 21 hats/scarves) to Holy Cross Hospital. The hospital’s Director of Volunteer Services, Ann November-Moss, was excited and grateful to get them, saying, “Thank you for the wonderful donation! I know the patients will love getting them.” Patients are ages “0 to 100.”



Photo by Connie Raab

Celebrating Our New Space

Over 50 members and volunteers came to our holiday open house in the new office and meeting space. We are excited to have actual workspace. Please note that our mailing address remains Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907.



Photos by Debbie Billet-Roumell

Upcoming Events for Villagers—and the Community

The Village calendar of events includes something for everyone almost every day—educational talks, social gatherings, discussion groups, walks, and more than a dozen interest groups. Visit our website (at the bottom) for the full calendar. (Members can login to see full details.) While most are for our members only, the events listed below are also open to the public. Join us!

- Wednesday, January 9, 2 pm – **A Look Behind The Curtain - Toward a Deeper Appreciation of Live Theatre, SPARKLE Program.** Come listen to Village member Rick Foucheux, a career Washington, D.C. stage actor and four-time Helen Hayes award winner. He will reveal the behind-the-scenes workings of how to put on plays and the magic of theatrical storytelling. At the Silver Spring Civic Center.
- Thursday, January 10, 2 pm – **Afternoon Book Group.** At the January meeting, we will discuss *Sing, Unburied Sing*, Jesmyn Ward's award-winning novel about an African-American family's struggles living in rural Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The multiple narrators offer differing perspectives on the past and present and ways that multiple generations are shaped by their history. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Friday, January 11, 7 pm – **Gallery Opening.** Join us to see a new exhibition of artwork by Village member, Leslie Hansley, whose art is based on African mask designs. At Kefa Cafe, Bonifant Street.
- Thursday, January 24, 11:45 am – **Techno Club.** Participants help each other improve, learn, practice, and expand their use and knowledge of smart phones, tablets, and laptop computers. At the Coffield Recreation Center.
- Wednesday, February 13, 2 pm – **Remembering our History, SPARKLE Program.** Come see the Female Re-enactors of Distinction (FREED). Village member Pat Tyson is co-founder and performer in this group of local women who portray ladies who contributed to our nation's history during the Civil War. Members of FREED, in period dress, bring to life true stories of these women through re-enactments and dramatic readings. At the Silver Spring Civic Center.
- Thursday, February 14, 2 pm – **Afternoon Book Group.** The February meeting will focus on *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett. Using the Japanese embassy hostage crisis in Lima, Peru, as a backdrop, the novel follows the relationships among a group of young terrorists and their hostages, one of whom is a world famous opera-singer. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Wednesday, February 20, 2:30-4 pm – **The Lighter Side of Aging.** Vanella A. Jackson-Crawford, a comedian and "edu-tainer," will entertain her audience by looking on the lighter side of relationships, aging, and life in general. Join us for light refreshments and light conversation. At the Silver Spring Civic Center.
- Saturday, February 23, 8 pm – **In the Next Room or "the vibrator play."** Sarah Ruhl's comedy examines marriage, intimacy, and electricity. This play is set in the 1880's when some doctors actually used vibrators to treat "hysterical" patients (mostly women). It focuses on how this therapy affects a doctor, his wife, and their entire household. At Silver Spring Stage.
- Thursday, February 28, 11:45 am – **Techno Club.** See January 24. At the Coffield Recreation Center.

We appreciate RSVPs for all events. Call (301) 503-7401 or email info@silverspringvillage.org.



Home Improvements



Through a program with Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, homeowners in the Silver Spring Village service area can receive home modifications worth up to \$15,000 each, to improve safety, energy efficiency, and accessibility—plus a one-year membership in Silver Spring Village. Importantly, applicants' need for improved safety and accessibility can be present or future needs.

Adele is a grateful beneficiary of this program. She has lived in her home since 1984 and wants to remain there. Habitat determined the issues that needed to be addressed, and got to work. They made many improvements to enhance accessibility, safety, and weatherization, including: new roof and gutters, new refrigerator and stove, grab bars in the bathroom, levers to replace door knobs, and improved insulation and ventilation.

Adele is also enjoying her Village membership. She regularly attends Village events and receives occasional rides. She has made new friends and feels a part of a community. Adele says: "I had been praying for this organization."

Eligibility: homeowner in or near zip code 20910 with a current homeowner's insurance policy, age 65 or older, single-person annual income under \$54,250 or two-person annual household income under \$62,000.

Interested? To learn more, please call Peggy Gervasi via (301) 503-7401.

What Volunteers Do

Village volunteers have many different skills and interests, but one thing they have in common is a dedication to helping our members stay healthy and happy in their own homes.

Some volunteers work full time and help when they can. Others work part time or are retired. They may do a little or a lot. Some help the organization, by answering the Village phone, helping to recruit members and volunteers, planning events and programs, or assisting with fundraising and development.

But the heart of what Village volunteers do is direct service for members. Volunteers provide rides; make friendly calls and visits; help with shopping, running errands, and pet care; work with members on decluttering; provide tech help with computers and gadgets; or do minor home repairs and small tasks that require climbing or lifting. (Village volunteers do not provide medical, health, or personal care.) If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at (301) 503-7401 or info@silverspringvillage.org.

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit membership organization started in 2013 to help older residents living in and near zip code 20910. We strive to enable our members to stay engaged in their community and continue to live at home with support from neighbors and friends.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jane Brown

Jane Brown sets aside two to three days a week to volunteer for Silver Spring Village, providing a wide range of services, including driving, paying friendly visits, feeding cats, and walking dogs. As you can imagine, Jane keeps herself busy helping Village members.

Jane learned about Silver Spring Village before it even opened, at a meeting where one of our “founding mothers,” the late Roberta Gosier, described the Village we were forming. After listening to Roberta, Jane thought she might like to volunteer for the Village after she retired from her job as the Manager, Safety, Training, and Compliance for Ride On buses.

When Jane first retired, she was busy taking care of her mother and fixing up the house she lives in, her childhood home. However, in 2014, after her mother died, Jane remembered Roberta’s presentation on the Village. She took the Village volunteer training and started devoting time to helping Village members. People for whom Jane has provided services describe her as incredible and thoughtful. Many of these members have now become friends with Jane and they never run out of things to discuss.



During her time helping members, Jane decided to become a full member herself. She realized that not only is the Village a worthy cause to support, but also that at some point she too might be in need of the services that the Village provides.

Thank you, Jane, for all you do!

—Vanessa Ripps

Jane Brown receiving the first Roberta Gosier Outstanding Volunteer Service Award in 2016—photo by Claire Maklan

DONATE NOW—Help Silver Spring Village continue to provide programs and services that strengthen our community while helping neighbors age in place.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount: __ \$ 100 __ \$250 __ \$500 __ \$1000 __ Other: _____

Please make your check payable to Silver Spring Village and mail it to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907. To contribute by credit card, please visit the [donations page](#) on the Village website. If you would like information about how to leave a legacy gift, please contact Sue Decker at (301) 503-7401.

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible.